

BOROUGH OF WREXHAM

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE
CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1954

E. WILLIAMS,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

A. McCARTNEY,
M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.



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*TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF
THE HEALTH COMMITTEE*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit the report on the Health and Vital Statistics of the Borough of Wrexham for 1954. The Report follows the form laid down in the Welsh Board of Health Circular 42/51.

The mid-year estimated population for 1954 as given by the Registrar General was 32,290 as compared with the mid-year estimated figure for 1953 of 32,420. There is thus a fall in the population of 130 persons. The total number of live births for the year was 539, the total deaths numbered 339, so that there was a natural increase of 200.

According to the Registrar General's Office, this increase in the civilian element was offset by a fall in the number of non-civilians stationed within the Borough.

The natural increase in population, which is the excess number of births over that of deaths, still, however, remains at the level of previous years.

During the year a total of 563 Council owned houses and flats were erected and handed over for occupation. This figure is the highest number of houses yet erected within the Borough in any year since the war, being an additional 200 approximately, over 1953. Credit must be given to the Chairman and Housing Committee on this achievement.

The rehousing of families living in apartments continues. At the end of 1953 there were 844 families living in apartments within the Borough applying for houses, by the end of 1954 this figure had fallen to 521. The total number of applicants for housing within the Borough has fallen from 1,501 in December, 1953, to 1,004 in December, 1954. The majority of cases of overcrowding has now been overcome and only a few cases now remain.

That an improvement in the general housing conditions has occurred may be seen from the fact that the length of the waiting period for housing has fallen. According to the Chief Housing Officer, the waiting period for a family with one child living in rooms three years ago would be approximately three years. At the present time the waiting period for a similar family would be approximately one and a half years.

The improvement in general housing conditions may also be seen from the increasing numbers of Council tenants who are refusing a first, second and even a third offer for houses, also from the increasing numbers of Council tenants who are now applying for transfers to various other parts of the Borough.

Housing transfers are considered by the Housing Committee on grounds of overcrowding, under-occupation or for medical reasons. These medical reasons must be supported by a certificate from the medical practitioner, and whilst not denying the existence of medical reasons, many of the medical circumstances arising are not sufficiently severe to justify a housing transfer.

Whilst great strides have been made in housing conditions and the main problem overcome, the need for further new houses still exists, and there still remains 521 families in apartments within the Borough, added to which the rehousing of families who are now living in sub-standard property is to be considered.

A survey of slum property within the Borough and a five year programme regarding slum clearance under the Housing Rent and Repairs Act, 1954, has been commenced. To date, no large scale slum clearance has been undertaken but a number of individual unfit houses were demolished. The erection of houses to rehouse families from slum clearance areas will thus soon take place.

The Rhosnessney hutments mentioned in previous reports and which the Council decided to close have now been demolished and the families rehoused, the site being utilised for the erection of more permanent type dwellings.

There has been a great reduction in the number of deaths of infants under one year of age occurring in any one year within the Borough. The total number of deaths for 1954 was 10, giving an Infantile Mortality Rate of 18.6 as compared with 32.9 for 1953. The Rate for England and Wales as a whole for 1954 being 25.5. It is to be hoped that this low Infantile Mortality Rate will be maintained and even improved in the future.

The total number of Lung Tuberculosis occurring during the year has also fallen from 50 in 1953 to 31 in 1954. Although the Mass Radiography Unit did not visit the town during the year—even had they done so—the total number of cases notified would probably still not have reached the level of the 1953 notifications.

The immunisation of young infants against diphtheria and whooping cough, and their vaccination against smallpox, has again been disappointingly low. Approximately 25% of infants born during the year received protection against these diseases.

I wish to thank the Chief Sanitary Inspector, and the Office Staff, for their loyal co-operation during the year.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. WILLIAMS,

Medical Officer of Health.

**STAFF OF THE
HEALTH DEPARTMENT.**

Medical Officer of Health:

E. WILLIAMS, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Abattoir Superintendent:

A. McCARTNEY, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors:

BERNARD JONES, HYWEL JONES, S. J. V. JAMES.

Articled Pupil Sanitary Inspector:

TECWYN ROBERTS.

Clerk to the Health Department:

MISS M. M. PARRY.

Clerks to the Sanitary Inspector's Department:

MISS M. B. PARRY. MRS. E. MOTTRAM (nee EDWARDS)
(Resigned July, 1954).

MISS G. HUGHES

(Commenced August, 1954).

Hon. Meteorologist:

S. E. ASHMORE, B.Sc.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

Chairman—Alderman CYRIL O. JONES, B.A.

Vice-Chairman—Councillor WM. EVANS.

Alderman	Mrs. E. C. BREESE.	Councillor	E. T. HANMER.
„	DUTTON.	„	Mrs. HAYNES.
„	Mrs. C. JARVIS JONES.	„	G. H. JONES.
„	EMYR WILLIAMS.	„	E. PRICE.
Councillor	Mrs. CHALLONER.	„	R. ROBERTS.
„	COOPER.	„	R. G. ROBERTS.
„	CRAIG.	„	T. F. THOMAS.
„	EDWARD DAVIES.	„	TAPLEY.
„	J. A. DAVIES.	„	STABLER.
„	GRIFFITHS.		

GENERAL STATISTICS.

Area	...	...	...	...	2,961 Acres
Population (Registrar General's Estimate)					32,290 (mid-annual).
Rateable value of the Borough, April 1st, 1955	...				£203,538
Product of a Penny Rate	...	...	...		£749/9/7d.
No. of Inhabited Houses (December 31st, 1954)	...				9,419
No. of Corporation Houses	do.	do.			4,206
Density of Persons per House	...	...	...		3.4

Population Trends since 1945.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Population.</i>	<i>Annual Increase.</i>	<i>Natural Increase.</i>
1945 ...	25,670 Estimated Figure	— 300	176
1946 ...	27,800 „ „	+ 2130	226
1947 ...	28,450 „ „	+ 650	289
1948 ...	29,100 „ „	+ 650	272
1949 ...	29,710 „ „	+ 610	215
1950 ...	30,470 „ „	+ 760	206
1951 ...	30,940 Census Figure	+ 470	164
1952 ...	32,090 Estimated Figure	+ 1150	209
1953 ...	32,420 „ „	+ 330	196
1954 ...	32,290 „ „	— 130	200

Extracts from Vital Statistics.

Population (R.G. Estimate Mid-annual) ...	...	...	32,290
Comparability Factors:—			
Deaths ...	...	...	1.06
Births ...	...	...	.97

BIRTHS.

During the year there were 539 live births, of which 275 were Males and 264 Females. This is an increase of 22 over the previous year.

The total number of illegitimate births was 27.

			<i>Male.</i>		<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Live Births (Legitimate) ...	...	...	266	...	246	512
do. (Illegitimate) ...	...	...	9	...	18	27
			<hr/>			
			275	...	264	539
			<hr/>			

Birth Rate (Adjusted) per 1,000 population	...	16.61
England and Wales	...	15.2

Birth Rate.

The Birth Rate for previous years and for 1954 is as follows:—

1943 ...	20.8	1949 ...	20.7
1944 ...	20.3	1950 ...	17.2
1945 ...	19.9	1951 ...	17.8
1946 ...	20.8	1952 ...	17.1
1947 ...	23.6	1953 ...	15.46
1948 ...	20.1	1954 ...	16.61

Stillbirths.

There was a total of 15 Stillbirths during the year, 14 of these were legitimate and 1 illegitimate.

		<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Stillbirths (Legitimate) ...	...	7	7	14
do. (Illegitimate) ...	...	—	1	1
		<hr/>		
		7	8	15
		<hr/>		

Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 population	...	0.46
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total (live and stillbirth)	...	27.0
England and Wales	.. ..	24.0

The following table shows the number of stillbirths, the stillbirth rates per 1,000 live and stillbirths, and per 1,000 population for the past twelve years.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>No. of Stillbirths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Live and Stillbirths.</i>	<i>Rate per 1,000 Population.</i>
1943	14	23.4	0.5
1944	26	47.0	1.0
1945	21	39.3	0.8
1946	22	36.7	0.7
1947	19	27.5	0.6
1948	16	26.6	0.5
1949	20	35.9	0.7
1950	21	37.2	0.6
1951	20	36.9	0.64
1952	10	17.2	0.31
1953	15	28.1	0.46
1954	15	27.0	0.46

DEATHS.

The total number of deaths of Borough residents during the year was 339. This figure is 18 more than occurred in 1953. The total number of Males who died was 189 and Females 150.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total</i>
	189	150	339
Death Rate (Adjusted) per 1,000 population ...			11.16
England and Wales ...	...	...	11.3

Death Rate.

The Adjusted Death Rate (taking the comparability factor into consideration) is 11.16. The Death Rate for England and Wales is 11.3.

The Death Rate for previous years and for 1954 is as follows:—

1943	...	13.6	1949	...	12.9
1944	...	12.5	1950	...	11.8
1945	...	13.1	1951	...	11.04
1946	...	12.6	1952	...	11.95
1947	...	13.4	1953	...	10.49
1948	...	10.7	1954	...	11.16

The following table gives the causes of Death:—

<i>Causes.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	4	2	6
2. Tuberculosis, other ...	2	—	2
3. Syphilitic disease ...	3	—	3
4. Diphtheria ...	—	—	—

5. Whooping Cough	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
6. Meningococcal Infection	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
8. Measles	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
10. Malignant neoplasm, Stomach	...	...	8	...	4	...	12
11. Malignant neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	...	...	7	...	—	...	7
12. Malignant neoplasm, Breast	...	...	—	...	8	...	8
13. Malignant neoplasm, Uterus	...	...	—	...	3	...	3
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	20	...	9	...	29
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
16. Diabetes	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
17. Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	26	...	35	...	61
18. Coronary disease, angina	...	...	25	...	21	...	46
19. Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
20. Other heart disease	...	...	19	...	31	...	50
21. Other circulatory disease	...	...	4	...	4	...	8
22. Influenza	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
23. Pneumonia	...	...	8	...	5	...	13
24. Bronchitis	...	...	12	...	3	...	15
25. Other diseases of the respiratory system	...	...	1	...	1	...	2
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	2	...	—	...	2
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	2	...	1	...	3
28. Nephritis, nephrosis	...	...	1	...	4	...	5
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	13	...	—	...	13
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
31. Congenital malformations	...	...	2	...	—	...	2
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	18	...	16	...	34
33. Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	3	...	—	...	3
34. All other accidents	...	...	3	...	1	...	4
35. Suicide	...	...	1	...	—	...	1
36. Homicide and operations of war	...	...	—	...	—	...	—
			189	...	150	...	339

Neo-Natal Deaths.

This represents the number of deaths occurring in infants under the age of 4 weeks. There were 7 deaths in all, 6 being Males and 1 Female. None were illegitimate.

			Male.	Female.	Total.
Legitimate	...	...	6	1	7
Illegitimate	...	...	—	—	—
			6	1	7

Neo-Natal Death Rate per 1,000 live births ... 12.9

Infantile Mortality.

During the year 10 infants died under the age of 1 year. This figure compares more favourably than in 1953, when there were 17 deaths. None were illegitimate.

The Infantile Mortality Rate was 18.6

England and Wales ... 28.5

The Infantile Mortality Rate since 1943 is shown as follows:—

1943	...	84.0	1949	...	50.4
1944	...	58.8	1950	...	44.2
1945	...	76.0	1951	...	28.7
1946	...	39.9	1952	...	35.02
1947	...	53.6	1953	...	32.9
1948	...	37.7	1954	...	18.6

The following table gives the causes of death occurring in infants under 1 year.

<i>Age</i>	<i>Sex</i>		<i>Causes of Death</i>
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
18 hours	1		Prematurity.
1 day	1		Prematurity.
1 day	1		Prematurity.
1 day	1		Prematurity.
3 days	1		Congenital atelectasis and Congenital Heart Disease.
1 week		1	Broncho-pneumonia and mongolism.
2 weeks	1		Cardiac Failure—Broncho- pneumonia.
1 month	1		Acute Bilateral Broncho- pneumonia.
1 month	1		Purpura Haemorrhagica and Prematurity.
4 months	1		Meningococcal Septicaemia and haemorrhage into both adrenal glands.

Maternal Mortality.

There were no Maternal Deaths during the year. The last Maternal Death within the Borough occurred in 1946.

Cancer Deaths.

There were 59 deaths from Cancer during the year, as compared with 50 in 1953. The 9 additional deaths occurred in Males, of which there was an increase in deaths from cancer of the stomach—3, cancer of the lung—2, other cancers—4.

Of the total Cancer Deaths 35 occurred in Males and 24 in Females.

The ratio of Cancer Deaths to total deaths is 1: 5.74 as compared with 1: 6.42 in 1953. The percentage of Cancer Deaths to total deaths is 17.4.

			<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Stomach	...	...	8	4	12
Lung and Bronchus	...	...	7	—	7
Breast	...	...	—	8	8
Uterus	...	...	—	3	3
Others	...	...	20	9	29
			35	24	59

The total number of Cancer Deaths and the percentage of Cancer Deaths to total deaths since 1943 is shown in the following table:—

<i>Year</i>	<i>Total No. of Deaths</i>	<i>Cancer Deaths</i>			<i>Percentage of Cancer Deaths to Total Deaths</i>
		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	
1943	382	30	30	60	15.7
1944	324	27	22	49	15.1
1945	337	14	30	44	13.1
1946	351	23	30	53	15.1
1947	382	36	26	62	16.2
1948	312	28	23	51	16.3
1949	360	36	28	64	17.8
1950	337	26	27	53	15.7
1951	358	25	27	52	14.5
1952	362	32	21	53	14.6
1953	321	26	24	50	15.6
1954	339	35	24	59	17.4

Heart Disease.

Heart Disease was responsible for 98 deaths. Of these 45 were Males and 53 were Females. The percentage of deaths from Heart Disease to total deaths is 28.9 as compared with 29.9 in 1953.

Pulmonary Causes.

There were 36 deaths from Pulmonary Causes, 6 of these being due to Tuberculosis, 13 were due to Pneumonia, 15 were due to Bronchitis and 2 due to other lung causes.

Respiratory Disease.

			<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
T.B. Respiratory	...	...	4	2	6
Pneumonia	...	...	8	5	13
Bronchitis	...	...	12	3	15
Others	...	...	1	1	2
			25	11	36
Total T.B.	...	...	4	2	6

Deaths from Lung Tuberculosis.

A total of 6 deaths occurred during the year, an increase of 1 over the previous year. One of these was that of a Female in whom the disease was not notified until after death had occurred.

Three of the deaths occurred in miners who had been notified some years previously. There were 2 deaths of persons who had been notified some twelve months previously.

NOTIFIABLE INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

During the year a total of 168 cases of notifiable infectious diseases were notified as compared with a total of 842 cases in 1953.

The numbers of the various infectious diseases occurring is shown in the table.

Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

DISEASE.	<i>Rates per 1,000 Population.</i>			
	NOTIFICATION.		DEATHS.	
Typhoid	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal	2	0.06	1	0.03
Scarlet Fever	32	0.9	—	—
Whooping Cough	45	1.4	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	2	0.06	—	—
Smallpox	—	—	—	—
Measles	11	0.3	—	—
Pneumonia	28	0.9	13	0.4
Acute Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—
Acute Paralytic	—	—	—	—
Acute Non-Paralytic	1	0.03	—	—
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	31	0.9	6	0.2
Tuberculosis, Other	8	0.2	2	0.06
Food Poisoning	3	0.09	—	—

Notifiable Infectious Diseases in 1954.

(Arranged according to Age).

DISEASE.	<i>Under</i>	1	3	5	10	15	45	65 <i>plus</i>	<i>Total</i>
	1	to 2	to 4	to 9	to 14	to 44	to 64		
Smallpox	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	5	12	15	—	—	—	—	32
Pneumonia	1	1	2	1	7	13	2	28	2
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	2	—
Meningococcal Infection	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—
Poliomyelitis	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Encephalitis Lethargica	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid and Paratyphoid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	5	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	1	2	—	8	—	—	—	11	—
Whooping Cough	4	14	5	22	—	—	—	45	—
Food Poisoning	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	3	—
Tuberculosis, Pulmonary	—	1	2	1	1	21	4	31	—
Tuberculosis, Other	—	1	—	1	3	3	—	8	—
TOTALS	7	27	21	49	6	37	17	4	168

Immunisation.

Immunisation against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough are undertaken either by the General Practitioner or at the Infant Welfare Clinics. The total number of children under 1 year who received the combined injections for the year numbered 128, slightly less than the number immunised in 1953.

The following table shows the number of children immunised against Diphtheria and Whooping Cough during the year.

<i>Diphtheria Immunisation.</i>					<i>Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Imm.</i>		<i>Whooping Cough Immunisation</i>
<i>Primary Doses.</i>			<i>Repeat Doses.</i>				
0-1	1-4	5-14	0-5	5-14	0-1	1-5	
6	25	102	55	157	128	136	2

Vaccinations.

The total number of cases vaccinated during the year was 158 (all ages) as compared with 164 in 1953. Vaccinations are being done by the General Practitioners and also at the Infant Welfare Clinics.

Tuberculosis.

The total number of Lung Tuberculosis cases notified during the year was 31, as compared with 50 in 1953. The Male notifications fell from 27 in 1953 to 19 in 1954, and the Female notifications from 23 in 1953 to 12 in 1954.

The Mass Radiography Unit did not visit the town during the year.

The following table shows the number of cases of Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary on the Tuberculosis Register on 1st January, 1954, and 31st December, 1954:—

	PULMONARY.			NON-PULMONARY.		
	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
1st January, 1954.	113	97	210	12	16	38
31st December, 1954.	124	104	228	13	20	33

Tuberculosis Cases Notified during the Year
(Arranged according to Age)

<i>Age Period</i>	<i>PULMONARY</i>		<i>NON-PULMONARY</i>	
	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>
0- 1	—	—	—	—
1- 4	1	2	1	—
5- 9	1	—	1	—
10-14	1	—	1	2
15-19	1	2	—	1
20-24	4	4	—	—
25-34	3	2	—	1
35-44	4	1	—	1
45-54	2	—	—	—
55-64	1	1	—	—
65 plus	1	—	—	—
TOTALS	19	12	3	5

The following table shows the number of Lung Tuberculosis cases notified and the rate per 1,000 population, and the deaths due to Lung Tuberculosis and rate per 1,000 population since 1944.

<i>YEAR</i>	<i>No. of Cases</i>	<i>Case Rate per 1,000 population</i>	<i>No. of Deaths</i>	<i>Death Rate per 1,000 population</i>
1944	35	1.4	10	0.4
1945	47	1.8	12	0.5
1946	37	1.3	14	0.5
1947	30	1.1	13	0.5
1948	30	1.03	7	0.2
1949	42	1.4	13	0.4
1950	24	0.8	10	0.3
1951	17	0.6	8	0.3
1952	46	1.4	4	0.1
1953	50	1.5	5	0.2
1954	31	0.9	6	0.2

GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Laboratory Provision.

Bacteriological examination of water, milk and ice cream are examined at the Public Health Laboratory at Birkenhead.

Hospital Accommodation.

(1) General.

(a) Wrexham and East Denbighshire War Memorial				
Hospital	...	...	...	170 Beds
(b) Maelor General Hospital: —				
Croesnewydd	...	...	...	186 ..
Emergency	210 ..
Isolation	108 ..

(2) Maternity Cases.

Trevalyn Manor Maternity Hospital	45 ..
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(3) Orthopaedic.

Robert Jones and Agnes Hunt Orthopaedic Hospital,
Gobowen.

Clinics.

(1) Orthopaedic.

The diagnosis and After-Care Treatment of Orthopaedic Cases is carried out at the Wrexham and East Denbighshire War Memorial Hospital, supplemented by institutional treatment at the Orthopaedic Hospital, Gobowen.

(2) Venereal Disease Clinic.

The only V.D. Clinic in the County is established at the Out-Patients' Department of the War Memorial Hospital.

(3) Infant Welfare Clinics.

Infant Welfare Clinics are held at four centres weekly within the Borough.

Gatefield, King's Mills Road	...	Monday Afternoon.
No. 1, Grosvenor Road	Monday & Wednesday Afternoon	
Garden Village Institute, Kenyon Avenue,	Wednesday Afternoon.	
Queen's Park	... ..	Thursday Afternoon

(4) Ante-Natal Clinics.

Ante-natal Clinics are held weekly at No. 1, Grosvenor Road.

Tuesday ... Morning and Afternoon.

Wednesday ... Morning only.

(5) Eye Clinic.

An Eye Clinic is held on alternate Monday mornings at No. 1, Grosvenor Road.

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 47.

No action was taken under this Act during the year.

WATER.

During the year 19 samples were taken for bacteriological examination, all were reported as being satisfactory.

CLEAN FOOD.

Periodical inspections of food shops and school kitchens were made during the year.

Food Poisoning.

During the year 3 cases of Para-typhoid Food Poisoning were notified simultaneously in the town. The outbreak occurred in young children, 2 in one family and the third in a separate family. Investigations were made but the source of the infection could not be traced.

HOUSING.

During the year a total of 563 houses and flats were erected, as compared with 367 in the previous year. The total number of houses erected by the Borough since 1945 has reached 2,072.

The following table as submitted by the Chief Housing Officer, shows the number of applicants for Council Houses as at December, 1954.

	CHILDREN.										<i>Total.</i>
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
APARTMENTS:											
(1) Residing in the Borough.	269	214	33	3	1	—	—	—	—	1	521
(2) Residing outside the Borough.	36	32	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	72
HOUSEHOLDERS :											
(1) Residing in the Borough.	128	112	22	36	7	2	1	—	—	—	308
(2) Residing outside the Borough.	12	51	24	10	3	2	—	—	1	—	103
TOTALS ..	445	409	83	49	11	4	1	—	1	1	1,004

The number of applicants living in apartments within the Borough has fallen from 844 to 521.

Applicants in apartments residing outside the Borough has fallen from 129 to 72.

Applicants who are householders residing in the Borough has fallen from 414 to 308.

Applicants who are householders residing outside the Borough has fallen from 114 to 103.

RAINFALL AND METEOROLOGY.

We have again received a comprehensive Report on the Rainfall and Meteorology from the Honorary Meteorologist, Mr. S. E. Ashmore, and I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Mr. Ashmore for his Report.

Temperature.

Average temperature for the year 1954	...	48.8°	
Warmest month—August.	Temperature	...	58.1°
Coldest month—February	do.	...	36.9°
Warmest day—Sept. 1st	Highest Temperature	79.4°	(The first time for this to happen since 1928).
Coldest day—Jan. 29th.	Highest Temperature	27.6°	(Coldest day since February, 1947).
Warmest night—Oct. 18th.	Lowest Temperature	60.5°	(This has never happened so late in the year before)
Coldest night—Feb. 2nd.	Lowest Temperature	13.4°	(Coldest night since March, 1947)

The month of October was unusually warm and December was also very mild, almost all the other months were cold, especially the summer months.

Frost.

Last Spring ground frost	...	...	June 1st
First Autumn ground frost	...	...	September 18th
Number of days on which there was Ground Frost	...	...	130 (11 less than normal)
Number of days on which there was Air Frost	...	...	40 (6 less than normal)

Snow.

Snow fell on	32 days		
Snow remaining on ground	...	...	23 days (7 more than normal, the highest since 1947)

Fog.

No. of days with Fog in the morning ... 26 (5 less than normal)

Rainfall.

Total for the year ... 35.97 inches (6.18 inches more than normal, the highest since 1931)

Wettest month—November ... 6.81 inches (the wettest November since 1867)

Driest month—April ... 0.47 inches.

No. of days with rainfall of .01 inches or more ... 218 (The highest since 1931)

No. of days with rainfall of .04 inches or more ... 156

No. of rain hours ... 647 (109 more than normal)

Wettest day—November 5th ... 1.63 inches

Longest period of rain hours in any one day—November 5th ... 23.7 hours

Absolute drought ... 18 days

Partial drought ... 29 days

Dry spell ... 1

Hailstones ... 19 days

Thunder ... 9 days

Pressure.

Average pressure 29,890 inches—0.65 inches less than normal.

Wind.

Average 9.0 miles an hour. Less wind from the South and South-west than usual.

Sunshine.

Very little except for the months of April and September.

Relative Humidity.

78.7%.

Evaporation.

20.67 inches.

Temperature of the Earth.

4 inches	...	...	...	47.8°
1 foot	...	...	...	49.0°
4 feet	...	...	...	49.2°

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

CHIEF SANITARY INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR 1954.

To the Chairman and Members of the Health Committee.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to present my Ninth Annual Report on the work of the Sanitary Inspection Department.

1954 has been an eventful year, bringing with it the decontrol of meat, new housing legislation, and the Beaver Report on Atmospheric Pollution.

The return of slaughtering, etc., to the trade, after 15 years of control by the Ministry of Food, resulted in a tremendous amount of work for the Health Committee and its Officials. I am pleased to record that the change over was carried out smoothly, and the Abattoir has had its most successful year since it was built in 1935.

The advent of the new Housing Repairs and Rents Act, found the Health Department ready to proceed with slum clearance, and it is hoped to make considerable progress early in the coming year.

In conclusion, may I express my appreciation to you, Mr. Chairman, and to the Members of the Committee, for your support during the year. I am also indebted to the Medical Officer of Health and other Officials of the Council. My Staff have carried out their duties in a manner which calls for my warm appreciation.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

A. McCARTNEY,
Chief Sanitary Inspector.

TABULATED SUMMARY OF SANITARY ADMINISTRATION.

Total No. of Inspections made	...	...	...	10,054
Total No. of Complaints received	...	...	...	413
Total No. of Notices served	...	...	...	1,123
Total No. of Interviews with owners, etc.	...	...	...	335

Bed Bugs.

No. of Inspections made	...	...	...	...	105
No. of Council Houses:—					
(i) Found to be infested	...	...	...	...	39
(ii) Disinfested by this Department	...	...	...	...	39
No. of Other Premises:—					
(i) Found to be infested	...	...	...	...	4
(ii) Disinfested by this Department at owner's expense	...	...	...	...	4

Cinemas and Places of Entertainment.

No. of Inspections made	...	...	...	...	4
No. of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	—
No. of Notices complied with	...	...	...	...	—

Closets.

No. of water-closet compartments cleansed and lime-washed	...	...	...	...	—
No. of water-closets repaired or reconstructed	...	...	...	...	59
No. of flushing cisterns repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	24
No. of new water-closet pans or pedestals provided	...	...	...	...	26
No. provided with supply of water	...	...	...	...	6

Common Lodging Houses.

No. registered at December 31st, 1954	...	...	...	...	1
No. of Inspections made—(Day)	...	...	...	...	8
No. of Inspections made—(Night)	...	...	...	...	—
No. of contraventions found	...	...	...	...	—
No. of contraventions remedied	...	...	...	...	—
No. of contraventions outstanding at end of year	...	...	...	...	—

There is only one small registered common lodging house in the Borough, and this is well conducted. It is known that there are a number of male persons scattered around the area who would probably make use of proper accommodation if it were provided for them. It is difficult in these days of the Welfare State to assess the need with any degree of accuracy, and one is tempted to ask if the lodging house attracts the lodger, or the lodger the lodging house! My impression is that the reduced number of common lodging houses in the Borough has greatly lessened the number of "casuals" frequenting the area.

Drains.

Drains constructed or reconstructed	5
Repaired or cleansed	28
Ventilated	5
Gullies provided or renewed	1
New Inspection Chambers	—
Tests to new drains	5
Tests to existing drains	17
New sinks provided	17
Sink waste pipes repaired or renewed	15
Soil and ventilating pipes repaired or renewed	2

Factories (Excluding Bakehouses).

No. of Factories in District (Mech.)	186
No. of Factories in District (Non-Mech.)	76
No. of Inspections made	11
No. of contraventions found	2
No. of contraventions remedied	2
No. of contraventions outstanding at end of year	—

Infectious Diseases, Disinfections, etc.

No. of investigations carried out	56
Disinfection arrangements are carried out by the Wrexham Isolation Hospital Staff to the satisfaction of the Health Department.	

Offensive Trades.

No. of Businesses in District	6
No. of Inspections made	16
No. of contraventions found	—
No. of contraventions remedied	—
No. of contraventions outstanding at end of year	—

Rodent Control.

No. of Premises inspected	864
No. of Premises found infested	182
No. of visits made	2,904

The regular, full-time service for the destruction of rats and mice continues to play its part in the environmental health service. Most of the property infestations are found to be mice, and rats are mainly dealt with by routine treatment of the sewers, and on the refuse tips.

Removal of Household Refuse.

No. of new ashbins provided by Informal action	10
No. of new ashbins provided by Statutory action	133
No. of ashpits abolished	—

Sanitary Defects Remedied.**DAMPNESS.**

No. of roofs renewed or repaired	...	...	...	144
No. of rainwater gutters and down spouts renewed or repaired	...	...	...	135
Yard surfaces repaired or relaid	...	...	...	20
Yard drainage improved	...	...	...	—

Interior Work.

No. of rooms cleansed and limewashed	...	...	...	5
No. of walls repaired	...	...	...	102
No. of walls rendered or repointed	...	...	...	47
No. of ceilings repaired	...	...	...	21
No. of floors repaired	...	...	...	54
No. of chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	...	...	...	8
No. of firegrates repaired or renewed	...	...	...	55
No. of washing boilers repaired or renewed	...	...	...	2
Damp proof courses provided and dampness remedied	...	...	...	11
Offensive accumulations removed	...	...	...	5
No. of doors and windows repaired or renewed	...	...	...	264
No. of staircases repaired	...	...	...	6
Ventilation improved	...	...	...	—
Lighting improved	...	...	...	—
Sufficient water supply provided	...	...	...	11

Smoke Emission and Abatement.

No. of smoke observations made	...	...	...	62
No. of visits made	...	...	...	42
No. of Notices served	...	...	...	1
			(Informal)	
No. of deposit gauges sited in the Borough	...	...	...	2

The average monthly deposit of soot, etc., for the past three years is as follows:—

	1952	1953	1954
Parish Church Site:—	26 tons	19 tons	24 tons
Cartrefle College Site:—	10 tons	7 tons	9 tons

The figures would appear to show that the past year was not as satisfactory as 1953 from the atmospheric pollution standpoint. Two factors, however, should be borne in mind. First, the weather during the whole of 1954 proved very inconsistent, and there is no doubt that more fires were used during the summer period, especially for domestic purposes. Secondly, I would point out that, in the Cartrefle College area, where the deposit is mainly domestic, about 500 more houses came into use during the year, most of them burning ordinary bituminous coal in open grates, and this factor has obviously had some effect on the extent of pollution in the locality. It might

be opportune to point out here that an increasing number of local authorities are making it a condition of tenancy of Council houses, that only smokeless fuels must be burnt.

Following the issue of the Beaver Report on Atmospheric Pollution, the Government have promised new Clean Air legislation, and its proposals are awaited with interest.

Swimming Baths and Pools.

No. of Swimming Baths in the district	...	...	1
No. of samples of water taken	...	...	9
No. of samples satisfactory	...	...	9

Tents, Vans, Sheds, etc.

No. of Licensed Sites	...	...	—
No. of Licensed Dwellings	...	...	1
No. of Inspections made	...	...	27
No. of Contraventions found	...	...	—

Water Supply.

No. of samples taken for Analysis	...	...	19
No. of samples satisfactory	...	...	15

One of the unsatisfactory samples was from a shallow spring supplying a house on the outskirts of the Borough. This supply has been closed, and main water laid on to the house from the Town supply.

HOUSING.

The housing survey commenced in 1952 has been continued during the year, and a comprehensive and detailed record is gradually being built up of all houses in the Borough. All the information required for the slum clearance programme for the next five years has already been obtained—this being, of course, the main object of the survey. In addition to this information, a great number of defects have been remedied in houses following the service of over 1,100 Sanitary Notices.

The Housing Committee's continued progress with new housing has helped enormously to relieve overcrowding in the Borough. During the year, 126 families living under overcrowded conditions, mainly in apartments, have been granted the tenancy of Council houses.

Remedy of Defects during the year without service of Formal Notices.

No. of dwelling-houses where defects were remedied in consequence of Informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	188
---	-----	-----	-----	-----

Action under Statutory Powers during the year.**(A) Proceedings under the Public Health Acts—Section 93.**

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Abatement Notices were served requiring defects to be remedied ...	248
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of Formal Notices:—	
(a) By Owners	161
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	1
(3) No. of Notices outstanding at end of year	86

Section 45.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring defective water-closets to be repaired	94
(2) No. of dwelling-houses where defective water-closets were repaired after service of Formal Notices:—	
(a) By Owners	50
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	2
(3) No. of Notices outstanding at end of year	42

Section 39.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served for the renewing or repairing of existing drains	134
(2) No. of dwelling-houses where the existing drains were renewed and cleansed:—	
(a) By Owners	89
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	—
(3) No. of Notices outstanding at end of year	45

Section 138 and Water Act, 1945. Section 30.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requesting Owner to provide water supply in pipes	—
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in which water supply was provided after service of Formal Notices:—	
(a) By Owners	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners ...	—
(3) No. of Notices outstanding at end of year	—

(B) Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	—
---	---

(2) No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notices:—

(a) By Owners	...	...	...	...	—
(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	...	...	...	...	—

(C) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Notices were served under Section 11	...	...	...	...	12
(2) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...	...	...	...	4
(3) No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...	...	...	...	4
(4) No. of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of Undertaking given by Owner	...	...	...	...	2
(5) No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Undertaking from owners accepted not to re-let houses for human habitation	...	...	...	...	2

(D) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made	...	...	...	...	2
(2) No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	...	...	...	...	—

(E) Housing Act, 1936. Overcrowding.

(1) (a) No. of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	...	...	...	...	...	} Not Known
(b) No. of families dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...
(c) No. of persons dwelling therein	...	...	...	...	...
(2) No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	...	...	...	...	...	8
(3) (a) No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	...	...	...	...	...	126
(b) No. of persons concerned in such cases	...	...	...	...	...	456
(4) Particulars of any cases in which dwelling-houses again became overcrowded after the Local Authority have taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	. . Not Known					

Slum Clearance.

Towards the end of the year, the first post-war slum clearance area, comprising 27 houses, was represented for clearance. A Public Inquiry was held on November 2nd, but the result had not been received at the time of going to press.

SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

The undermentioned table gives details of the number and type of food premises within the Borough, and the number of inspections made during the year.

	No. in District	No. of Inspections made.
Bakehouses	30	139
Butchers' Shops	41	48
Cafes, Restaurants and Snack Bars	27	146
Dairies and Milk Shops	13	16
Fried Fish Shops	16	98
Fruit and Greengrocers	45	22
General Provision Shops	104	346
Hotels and Public Houses	60	61
Ice-Cream Premises	94	10
Wet Fish Shops	7	19
Other Food Premises	6	18

Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

A total of 45 Formal samples and 35 Informal samples were taken under the provisions of this Act during the year.

The articles sampled were as follows:—

Formal	Informal
Milk 45	Sage and Onion Stuffing ... 2
	Parsley and Thyme ... 1
	Ice-Cream 8
	Beef Suet 2
	Ham and Chicken Paste ... 1
	Salmon and Shrimp Paste ... 1
	Chicken Paste 1
	Pilchard and Tomato Paste ... 1
	Beef Paste 1
	Bloater Paste 1
	Evaporated Milk 1
	Meat and Potato Pie 1
	Cooking Fat 4
	Butter 4
	Margarine 5
	Chocolates 1

Four formal and 4 informal samples were returned as "Not Genuine."

I am indebted to Mr. T. H. Evans, Inspector of Weights and Measures, Denbighshire County Council, for the following details of his work in the Borough during the year;—

Article	No. Taken	Genuine	Not Genuine, or Sub-Standard
Milk ...	61	51	10
Butter ...	4	4	—
Pearl Barley ...	2	—	2
Oatmeal ...	1	1	—
Jelly ...	1	1	—
Condensed Milk ...	1	1	—
Fresh Cream ...	2	2	—
Ice-Cream ...	5	3	2
Cream ...	1	1	—
Sugar ...	1	1	—
Sweets ...	1	1	—
Jam ...	2	2	—
Marmalade ...	1	1	—
Salad Cream ...	1	1	—
Pickled Onions ...	1	1	—
Pepper ...	1	1	—
Potted Salmon ...	1	1	—
Tinned Fish ...	1	1	—
Fish Paste ...	1	1	—
Sausage ...	2	2	—
Tinned Peas ...	1	1	—
Pure Coffee ...	1	1	—
Beer ...	1	1	—
Rum ...	1	1	—
Gin ...	1	1	—
Port Wine ...	1	1	—
Olive Oil ...	1	1	—
TOTALS ...	98	84	14

As will be observed from the above Table, ten samples of milk were certified by the Public Analyst as being "Not Genuine or Sub-Standard." In nine of these samples there was a deficiency in the solids-not-fat and in one instance a deficiency in fat, but in every case the deficiency was so slight as not to justify further action. In no case was any extraneous water found in the milk.

The two samples of pearl barley certified "Not Genuine" were taken from the same vendor and were found to be infested with mites. The firm responsible was prosecuted and fined.

Two informal samples of ice-cream were certified by the Public Analyst to be slightly deficient in fat content and the vendors concerned were cautioned.

All other samples were certified by the Public Analyst to be genuine and free from all prohibited preservatives and colouring matter,

Duties Relating to Ice-Cream.

There are 94 registered premises for ice-cream including 4 manufacturers.

During the year the following samples were taken:—

Bacteriological—16. These were graded as follows by the Public Health Laboratory Service:—

Grade 1 ...	16	Grade 3 ...	—
Grade 2 ...	—	Grade 4 ...	—

MILK AND DAIRIES ADMINISTRATION.

In addition to 13 registered dairy premises, there are now 43 persons registered as purveyors under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949. Under the provisions of the Milk and Dairies (Special Designations) Regulations, 43 Dealer's Licences and 13 Supplementary Licences have been granted.

I give below the details relating to the bacteriological sampling of milk:—

No. of samples taken	...	...	...	...	139
(1) School Milks. (Pasteurised).					
Total number of samples taken	...	...	...	...	18
Total number of samples satisfactory	...	...	...	...	14
Total number of samples submitted to the Phosphatase Test	...	...	...	...	18
Number found satisfactory	...	...	...	...	17
(2) Designated Milks other than School Milks.					
(Pasteurised Milk).					
No. of samples taken	...	52.	No. satisfactory	...	50
(Tuberculin Tested Milk).					
No. of samples taken	...	39.	No. satisfactory	...	32
(Tuberculin Tested/Pasteurised Milk).					
No. of samples taken	...	30.	No. satisfactory	...	29
(3) Biological Testing for Tubercle Bacilli.					

Two samples of the milks submitted for bacteriological examination were also examined for the presence of Tubercle Bacilli, with negative results.

(4) Other Foods.

Three samples of Sterilized Cream were submitted for bacteriological examination and were found to be satisfactory.

Inspection of Meat.

During the year, 71,385 animals were slaughtered at the Abattoir, and all were inspected as to their fitness for human consumption. Inspection revealed that over 96 tons of meat required condemnation, and this was disposed of for inedible processing purposes.

The percentage of meat affected with Tuberculosis, 20.4%, is the lowest ever recorded at the Abattoir, and is less than half of what it was ten years ago.

1954 was notable for the ending of Ministry of Food controls on meat and livestock, and private slaughtering re-commenced at the Abattoir early in July. The Health Committee gave very careful thought to future arrangements at the Abattoir, including such matters as the responsibility for slaughtering, disposal of condemned meat, revision of Abattoir tolls, and the provision of new equipment and facilities, with particular reference to refrigeration plant. The Abattoir is now open to any butcher who cares to make use of it, but in the main, the bulk of the slaughtering is being carried out by the Fatstock Marketing Corporation and Messrs. Williamson, the latter dealing with pigs only.

De-control led to a considerable amount of meat inspection outside normal hours, and particularly at week-ends. I am grateful to the Committee for their consideration of this matter whereby they agreed to recommend the payment of overtime to the Meat Inspectors, and to the appointment of an Additional Sanitary Inspector.

	CATTLE <i>excluding Cows.</i>	COWS.	SHEEP AND LAMBS.	PIGS.	CALVES
No. Slaughtered	2,520	2,985	41,665	16,279	5,316
No. Inspected	*2,661	*3,126	*42,029	*18,100	*5,469
Disease Except Tuberculosis.					
Whole Carcases condemned..	4	99	56	58	284
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	519	1,193	2,770	1,401	25
% of No. inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	19.65%	41.3%	6.7%	8.1%	5.65%
Tuberculosis.					
Whole Carcases condemned..	7	54	—	17	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ..	144	583	—	380	—
% of No. inspected affected with Tuberculosis	5.7%	20.4%	—	2.2%	.04%

* This figure includes dressed carcasses brought into the Abattoir for inspection.

Total weight of meat condemned during the year :—

69 tons, 3 cwts., 1 qr., 1 lb.

Imported Meat Distributed at the Municipal Abattoir during the Year.

Mutton Carcases.	Beef Quarters.	Other Meat & Offal.
24,410	5,124	78,185 lbs.

Imported meat condemned at the Municipal Abattoir during the year:—

942 lbs.

Canned and other Food, etc., Condemned as Unfit for Human Consumption.

Tinned Foods	5,664 lbs.	Confectionery	205½ lbs.
Poultry	115½ lbs.	Cheese and Cheese Ends	265 lbs.
Sauce	7¼ lbs.	Sausages	4 lbs.
Flour	152 lbs.	Pickles	28½ lbs.
Cereals	67¼ lbs.	Fish	420 lbs.
Salad Cream	58¾ lbs.	Meat Pies	2 lbs.
Cake and Cake Mixture	354 lbs.	Dried Fruit	2¾ lbs.
Fats	58½ lbs.	Fruit Juice	47½ lbs.
Preserves	135¼ lbs.	Puddings	50¾ lbs.
Beverages	9¼ lbs.	Biscuits	199½ lbs.
Mincemeat	25 lbs.	Frozen Egg	12 lbs.
Butter Beans	140 lbs.	Bread	140 lbs.
Jellies	12¼ lbs.	Dried Peas	56 lbs.
		Miscellaneous	22¾ lbs.

TOTAL:—8,255¼ lbs.

Percentage classifications are as follows:—

Home	...	59.8%	=	4,934½ lbs.
Foreign	...	32.1%	=	2,651½ lbs.
Empire	...	8.1%	=	669¼ lbs.
				<hr/>
		100%	=	8,255¼ lbs.

LEGAL PROCEEDINGS.

Legal proceedings were instituted on three occasions during the year, one case being under the Public Health Act, 1936, and two under the Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

1. Public Health Act, 1936.

The occupier of a dwelling-house was summoned for failing to comply with a Nuisance Order relating to the filthy condition of the house. A fine of £5 was imposed.

2. Food and Drugs Act, 1938.

(a) A firm of bakers and confectioners was summoned for selling a blackcurrant tart containing a cockroach. A fine of £10 was imposed with 6/- costs.

(b) A firm of chocolate manufacturers was summoned for selling a bar of chocolate containing a piece of metal. The firm pleaded that all reasonable precautions had been taken, and the case was dismissed by the Magistrates.

WREXHAM BOROUGH COUNCIL.

ABATTOIR REVENUE ACCOUNT—YEAR ENDED 31st MARCH, 1954.

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EXPENDITURE.

Abattoir—Premises and Paddocks.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Electricity, Fuel and Water ...	657	10	1			
Rates, Taxes, Tithe and Insurance ...	160	10	10			
Maintenance and Repairs ...	92	1	7			
Painting ...	537	19	9			
Removal of Manure, Inedible Offals and Ashes and Emptying Settling Tank ...	474	17	5			
Cleansing of Lairages by Contractors ...	54	12	0			
Chemicals, Cleaning Requisites and Laundry ...	26	19	0			
Wages ...	956	7	11			
Equipment ...	368	2	8			
Protective Clothing ...	14	1	3			
Paddocks—						
New Fencing ...	8	19	6			
Loan Charges—						
Interest ...	286	17	7			
Principal ...	489	0	0			
Debt Management ...	3	19	7			
Abattoir—General Expenses.						
Printing and Stationery ...	5	0	0			
Telephone ...	12	0	9			
Salaries, Superannuation and Insurance ...	196	10	3			
				£4345	10	2

INCOME.

	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Tolls ...	2665	3	0			
Sale of Manure ...	103	12	6			
Grazing Charges ...	17	8	8			
Van Washing ...	20	0	0			
Rent of Piggeries ...	70	0	0			
Rent of Offices ...	91	0	0			
Ministry of Food—						
Deficit Contribution ...	212	16	9			
				£3180	0	11
Deficit borne by Council ...				1165	9	3

£4345 10 2



